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HISTORY AND MEDICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
TWO-HEADED GIRL.



SOLD BY HER AGENTS FOR HER SPECIAL BENEFIT, AT TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

HISTORY AND MEDICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

TWO-HEADED GIRL.

SOLD BY HER AGENTS FOR HER SPECIAL
BENEFIT, AT 25 CENTS.

TOLD IN "HER OWN PECULIAR WAY" BY "ONE OF THEM."

BUFFALO, N. Y.
WARREN, JOHNSON & CO.
1869.

“something else.” But the “something else” soon gave unmistakable evidences that it could; *viva voce*, intimate a desire for maternal comforts, just as well as the best developed young African on the premises. So our mother and the rest of the family came to the conclusion that “a child was born.”

Our parents were named Jacob and Menemia, and at the time of our birth were part of the family of a Mr. McCoy. Shortly afterwards we and our parents changed owners, and were taken to Anson County, North Carolina. There we became separated from our parents, and after a few more transfers in the way of ownership, became the property of Mr. Jos. P. Smith, who gave for us, two strange lumps of humanity, the sum of \$30,000. He, with a goodness of heart, which in after life developed itself in more ways than one towards us, ascertained where our parents were, went to their owners, purchased them, and all our little brothers and sisters, thus bringing a long separated family together, and the making of more than one heart rejoice in gladness.

When we were infants, not much more than fifteen months old, Mr. Smith, yielding to the advice of a number of his friends and well wishers, made arrange-

ments for starting upon an exhibition tour through the Gulf States, intending to show us at all the principal cities and towns. Our local fame was communicated to the press generally throughout the South, and soon the "South Carolina Twins," or "double-headed girl," became a magnet of attraction to the lovers of the curious in nature.

Perhaps it would not be improper to remark here, *en passant*, that Mr. Smith was not in those days a practical "showman," but being a "Southern gentleman from the country," was very liable to be imposed upon. A speculator, one of those "smart" men, ever ready to take all undue advantage of his fellow man, came to Mr. Smith at New Orleans, and made a proposition to become our exhibitor. This man had a persuasive address, spoke as one having authority, and great influence with the "press and the public," so the consequences were Mr. Smith hired the fellow to exhibit us, rather to "put us properly before the public." The man was to get a per centage of the receipts, Mr. S. to bear all the expenses. For awhile things worked agreeably, until one day Mr. S. was called to his home in North Carolina to attend to some pressing business. Taking advantage of the absence of our

kind master and guardian, the man absolutely kidnapped us, stole us from our mother, and bore us far away from friends, kindred, or any one who had *a right* to feel an interest in us. The man who took us away could not, or rather *did not dare* to publicly exhibit us, but gave private exhibitions to scientific bodies, thus reaping quite a handsome income off of "two little black girls" whom he had stolen away.

Finally, when we had been thus dragged over the country for nearly two years, the one who had surreptitiously become our custodian, disposed of us to another speculator, who was unacquainted with the fact that we were *originally* and then the legal property of Mr. Smith. He took us to Philadelphia and placed us in a small Museum in Chestnut street, near Sixth, then under the management of Col. Wood, who is, we believe, somewhat known as a showman.

While there, a party saw us, and hearing that we were born South, came to the conclusion to get possession of us. He went to the authorities and said we were slaves, brought into a free State, where we were unjustly deprived of our liberty. He prayed the Court to exercise jurisdiction in the premises, take us away from the party who held us, and to appoint a

guardian for us. This dodge did not work well, for the man who had us spirited us away before the necessary papers could be served, and in a few hours we were upon the basins of the broad Atlantic, *en route* for Europe.

By this time Mr. Smith had gained tidings of us, and in company with his attorney, Luke Blackmar, Esq., of Salisbury, and a friend, J. Vestal, Esq., came north to reclaim us. He and his friends arrived in the city of New York the day after the Baltic sailed with us. Friends who took an interest in Mr. Smith's misfortunes, told him that all attempts to claim us as his property would prove futile in England; but that no one could restrain us, provided our parents claimed us as then infant children. Quick as thought he acted upon the suggestion, started for our home in the "Old North State," got our mother Menemia, and was soon *en route* for "Merrie England," where he and our mother shortly arrived in safety.

Mr. Smith was not long in discovering our whereabouts. The fact of our being in England was soon known, as the parties who had carried us there thought that they could, anywhere out of the United States, show us with impunity. They influenced a

colored woman, under the promise of a rich reward, to testify upon oath that she was our mother; but the woman, anticipating the enormity of the crime, ran away; not until, however, she had received in advance a portion of the wages of sin. Another woman then yielded to the temptation of gold, and did in open court perjure her soul, and swear that she had given us birth. But her carefully told and well rehearsed *lie* would not stand the close scrutiny of the Ministers of Law, who listened to the plain and well-told narrative of our mother, who evinced a mother's tenderness for *us*, her little deformities, and imparted a pathos to those utterances when she, in a natural, unassuming way, begged for the custody of her children from whom she had so long been separated, but from whom she could never feel estranged. The law vindicated itself, and gave us to our mother.

As soon as the decision was made manifest, then those who had stolen us the last time endeavored to prevail upon our mother to *hire* us to them, offering her a large sum to allow us to travel over the country and to go upon the continent. This she refused to accede to, until some outside parties succeeded in inducing Mr. Smith to consent to some co-partnership

arrangement, by which both he and us would be the recipients of fine receipts. Mr. S. then consented to mother's signing a three years' agreement, the effects of which we need not here give. But, suffice it to say, that soon the cloven foot of the man who wanted us, showed itself; he tried to vitiate the contract, so as to get things his own way, and thus deprive us of our rights. He abused our mother, and applied the most revolting epithets. He threatened the life of Mr. Smith, and refused to allow us to receive the attention and luxuries which children of tender age require. Our mother got afraid, and begged our good master to assist her and us children to reach the shores of our own beloved America. He yielded to her prayers and entreaties, and determined to set us free from a bondage so repulsive. Becoming familiar with the running time of all the railway trains, and becoming cognizant of the exact time when the steamer would leave her dock at Liverpool, he made all arrangements for a speedy departure. Getting a trusty cabman to come to our lodgings, where all our things were in readiness, we were at the depot in London before any one surmised our intentions. The steam cars moved, and after a rapid journey (for steam cars do travel in Eng-

land,) we arrived at the Americanized city of Liverpool just half an hour before the steamer Atlantic was ready to leave her docks.

With grateful hearts we turned our backs upon Albion's shore; not but that the people treated us well enough, and would have paid liberally to have seen us, still, we had enemies there who we thought would injure our master and protector, and act in bad faith toward us.

There are many things of interest we missed seeing in England, on account of the brief time we had to stay there. Perhaps now that we are "grown up girls," and like the rest of the sex, with tongues, and a knowledge of their use, we may go across the water once more. A gentleman who called to see us when we were on exhibition in Baltimore, told us that the "double-headed girl" was often inquired after, and that he thought we would prove a "good card" there. At present our business relations are such that we feel in duty bound to stay at home.

We might, could we feel disposed, tell many anecdotes of our travels, but we think a simple narrative of ourselves is all that at present those of our patrons who buy our little book will require.

But our visit to the Queen and the Royal Family, at "Osborne House," we shall never forget. Her Majesty had "signified her pleasure" to have us brought before her. Our good mother wrapped us up in real southern style to shield us from the heavy fogs of London. We nor she did not comprehend the glory of the errand we were bent upon, only she knew that a grand and good lady wanted to see us. When we arrived, the pomp and circumstances of the surroundings dazzled our young eyes, and we wondered what was to be done with us. But we can say that "Victoria was a woman," for she talked tenderly to us, and to our mother, and when we left we bore away abundant tokens of her good feeling and queenly liberality. A great many artists boast of having been before the Queen. Perhaps they have, and employed great diplomacy to get there. But with us the case was different. Poor little monstrosities, and black babies at that; we were sent for, and that without any influence at court to gain for us a Royal summons.

When we arrived home again at New York, Mr. Smith took us under his cloak and carried us on the ferry boat to Jersey City, where he got us on the cars and never stopped until we reached the Monu-

mental City, where we felt safe from pursuit. There we rested for a few days under the hospitable roof of Barnum's Hotel, and then left for our own dear home. It was a joyous night when we arrived there and found our "white ma," Mrs. Smith, waiting to receive us. Of course we then did not appreciate her worth, for we were babies when we left her; but we soon learned to regard her with the most tender feelings. She taught us our first precepts of religion, and assumed the duties of preceptress, our ideas of a Deity being very imperfect. We had heard the Supreme Being alluded to, but not in tones of love and reverence, but to give force to some angry expression. She gradually imparted to us such ideas as our crude minds could comprehend, until such times as we could begin to understand the fundamental principles of the doctrine of the established Church of England. Now, although we do not wish to speak Pharisaical, we think we can safely call ourselves really Christian children. Mrs. S. instructed us to read and write, to sing and dance, and thus, while being able to enjoy ourselves, and to employ our time usefully, to contribute in no small degree to the amusement of those who called to see us.

In 1860, we were in New Orleans when the domestic political troubles commenced. Mr. Smith, who had heavy responsibilities resting upon him, was obliged to withdraw us from public life and take us home. Shortly after that, he was taken ill, and after a few weeks' suffering, died, leaving his widow to look after his people and the estate. We were old enough then to mourn the loss of our good master, who seemed to us as a father; and we here would render a grateful tribute to his memory, by saying that he was urbane, generous, kind, patient-bearing, and beloved by all. We trust, in fact believe, that he has gone to that heaven we have heard him so often describe to us, when he would impress upon our minds the necessity of leading a good life in the hope of gaining a blessed immortality hereafter.

Master had always been liberal to others, and had, upon frequent occasions, lost heavily in business transactions. These circumstances, and the results of the war, left us and his widow and children to a certain extent in straightened circumstances. The only alternative was for us to again go upon exhibition, and by our humble efforts contribute to the happiness and comforts of the surviving members of our late master's

family. We are *interested* pecuniarily in the "show," and are daily receiving and putting away our share of the proceeds. None can mistake our determination in remaining under the guardianship of Mrs. Smith. Our object is two-fold: *We can trust her*, and what is more, we feel grateful to her and regard her with true filial affection. We will not go with any one else; where she goes there will we go; where she tarries there will we halt. We shall endeavor to imitate that deep devotion which Ruth evinced toward Naomi.

Having thus spoken of ourselves, and given you a very plain, and perhaps a very uninteresting autobiography, we will give you a few extracts from letters and opinions which have been uttered and expressed relative to us:

The editor of the *Louisville Journal* said: "The exhibition of these remarkable twins is characterized by the peculiar delicacy, modesty and ingenuousness of these *young girls* themselves. Nothing occurs nor can occur offensive to the most fastidious sense of propriety or refined taste." Mr. Prentice, we have always heard, could say pleasant as well as very witty and cunning things. We thank him for the handsome manner in which he has seen proper to speak of us.

“Brick Pomeroy,” of the La Crosse *Democrat*, came to one of our levees last winter, and shortly after our secretary received a paper from Wisconsin, which contained the subjoined: “We have seen the Carolina Twins, or the ‘Double-Headed Girl’ as they are styled on the bills. We can in truth say we were pleased with them, particularly with the manner in which they conversed. They are not impudent, but they are not foolishly retiring. They sing well, in fact excellent, and dance divinely, considering the manner in which their limbs and body are constructed. They know they are a curiosity, and feel anxious that the public should appreciate their attractiveness. We have no hesitation in declaring them to be the most extraordinary exhibition of a peculiar and ‘indissoluble union’ we have ever witnessed. The Siamese twins, in the way of strange formation, cannot bear any comparison to them.”

That editor fully knows how we feel in regard to the public. We wish to be viewed as something entirely void of humbug—a living curiosity—not a sham gotten up to impose upon and deceive the people. We are indeed a strange freak of Nature, and upon the success of our exhibition does our happiness

and the well-doing of others depend. We have been examined most scrutinizingly by too many medical men to be *regarded* as humbugs by any one. Still there are many persons who will not believe anything, no matter how strong the facts may be presented to them. If there be any such who have been to see us, and into whose hands this little book of ours may chance to fall, we beg most respectfully to offer them some medical testimony of a most positive and unmistakable character.

PHILADELPHIA, May 30, 1866.

MRS. JAMES P. SMITH:

Madam: A number of medical gentlemen having been invited to examine the North Carolina Twins, now upon exhibition at the Assembly Buildings, say they found a thorough fusion of the lower portion of the trunk, osseous and fleshy; the two spinal columns uniting together at the base, forming but one large bone common to both.

The limbs and upper part of each trunk, and the heads, are perfectly separate, as though belonging to a distinct individuality, forming the most interesting monstrosity, morally and physically considered, on record. Among the gentlemen who are willing to allow

their names to appear and give tone to the above statements, are :

DR. S. H. DICKSON,

Professor Practice of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College.

DR. ELLERSHE WALLACE,

Professor of Obstetrics, Jefferson Medical College.

DR. JOHN B. BIDDE,

Professor Materia Medica, Jefferson Medical College.

DR. J. AITKIN MEIGS,

Lecturer Summer School.

DR. WILLIAM H. PANCOAST,

Demonstrator of Anatomy and Lecturer Summer School.

All these gentlemen are well known, not only in Philadelphia, but throughout a great portion of the country, and it is not at all probable that they could be deceived, and it is still more unlikely that they would lend their countenance to an imposition.

Although we speak of ourselves in the plural, we feel as but *one person*; in fact as such we have ever been regarded, although we bear the names Millie and Christina. One thing is certain; we would not wish to be severed, even if science could effect a separation. We are contented with our lot, and are happy as the day is long. We have but *one heart*, one feeling in common, one desire, one purpose.

The song we sing, we have so often been requested to give copies of, that we have concluded to insert it in our book. We must admit that, as a literary production, it has not much merit, but it conveys a good idea of our feelings.

It's not modest of one's self to speak,
But daily scanned from head to feet
I freely talk of everything—
Sometimes to persons wondering.

Some persons say I must be two;
The doctors say this is not true;
Some cry out humbug, till they see,
When they say, great mystery!

Two heads, four arms, four feet,
All in one perfect body meet;
I am most wonderfully made,
All scientific men have said.

None like me, since days of Eve—
None such perhaps will ever live;
A marvel to myself am I,
As well to all who passes by.

I'm happy, quite, because I'm good;
I love my Saviour and my God;
I love all things that God has done,
•Whether I'm created *two* or *one*.

Those who are in attendance upon us can, perhaps, give the public some information that we have overlooked. Hoping our little book will be found well worth the money, we conclude our plain unvarnished tale

MEDICAL DESCRIPTION.

CASE 2.—PYGOPAGUS SYMMETROS.

[H. F. RAMSBOTHAM, *Med. Times and Gazette*, Sept., 1855, p. 313.]

The following description of a living symmetrical Pygopagus is quoted entire, from the journal above cited. The united children were exhibited in London in the year 1855:

A Description of the United African Twins, now being exhibited at the Egyptian Hall, Picadilly.

Two African girls, whose bodies are indissolubly joined together. They are five years old, and are as well grown and plump as most children of the same age. One of them is rather larger than the other, which was the case when they were born. The band of union is sixteen inches in circumference. It commences about the inferior edge of the first division of the sacrum, it involves all the bones below that line to the extremity of the

coccyx. The point, which I distinctly felt, is blunter than ordinary, as though the two bones were fused in one.

There is no doubt that the bones themselves are joined together by ossific disposition; and that the union extends throughout; the right half of the lower part of the sacrum belonging to one child, and the left half belonging to the other, and the same through the coccyges of both, also including the posterior edge of the sacro iliac symphysis, below the posterior superior spinous process of the ilium. There is, consequently, a deeper sulcus at the junction of the bodies on one side than on the other. On the shallow side the bony union cannot be felt, the skin not being sufficiently yielding. All four of the tuberosities of the ischia appear perfectly distinct. There is but one anus, occupying the position it would naturally do, as regards the coccyx in one of the children, provided that child were separated from its sister. In a corresponding part of the body belonging to the other child, there is a deep, blind depression, such as we see in one variety of imperforate anus, looking very much, when superficially examined, as if it were the termination of another rectum. Within the anus the finger passes into a wide cavity, the common continuation of the

two intestina recta; but the place where these two bowels unite into one canal is out of its reach.

Each of these conjoined labia is not longer than an ordinary labium of a child of the same age—about one inch—and the fossa navicularis, although it contains a double set of external organs, is but little larger than if it belonged to a single child. The genital fissure, instead of commencing anterior to the lower part of the symphysis pubis, begins quite underneath, at some distance behind the symphysis. Each symphysis pubis is formed as is natural, and they are separated from each other by a considerable space. The anus is on one side of the vulva, so that what answers to the perinacum, about half an inch in extent, runs laterally to the tips of the coccyx, which is somewhat twisted to one side.

The children stand not quite back to back, but rather sideways, so that they are able to place their arms around each other's neck, and give each other a kiss; but they cannot walk side by side. When lying, one reclines upon her back, and the other upon her side.

There is but one anus. There is reason to believe, however, that although the sacra are united, the caudæ

equinæ are separate; for if the external genital organs of one are touched, the other does not feel it; but the same remark does not apply to their lower extremities. They run about with amazing ease and activity. Their dispositions are both very amiable, though one is milder than the other in temper, the little one having the most "pluck," and their intelligence is equal to, if it does not exceed, that of most European children of the same age. They play together with their toys; they seldom have contrary wishes, and although there are at times little tiffs between them, they have never been known to have a downright quarrel. These particulars I obtained from the gentleman who has charge of them. He tells me he has never seen their mother; but was informed by their aunt, who was present at their delivery, that the labor was very tedious, though not to be considered difficult, and that they were small at their birth. I cannot learn what part of the body presented, nor in what position it passed through the pelvis. The connection between these African twins bears a great resemblance to that of the Hungarian sisters, who were exhibited in London at the beginning of the last century.

Prof. H. V. N. Miller describes [*Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, February, 1854,] a Pygopagus of African parentage so nearly like that detailed above by Dr. Rainsbotham, that I am inclined to believe that it is the identical case. There is a discrepancy of over a year in the age, as given by each, yet neither gives the date, and Dr. R. does not even mention their names, or the country which gave them birth.

Prof. Miller says: "These children, named Millie and Christina, born in North Carolina, of African parentage, are females, now about two years old. They are united posteriorly. The *os coccygis* of each seems to be bent backwards and to become continuous with that of the other. The lower portion, to probably one-third its extent, of the sacrum of each, is in like manner joined by bony union to the corresponding portion of the sacrum of the other, forming, with the muscles attached to them, and the general integument, a firm band of two or three inches in diameter, but so short that the nates of each child are pressed against those of the other. They are thus united back to back, but not exactly parallel; there is a slight inclination to the right side of the one and to the left side of the other. In consequence of this obliquity, they lie more com-

fortably on one side than the other, and from having been from birth constantly laid in this position, their heads are not symmetrical, the bones of the cranium having apparently yielded to the continued pressure in one direction.

They have a common anus, and common vulva. Both have the desire to go to stool and actually discharge their fæces and urine at the same time. One suffered severely from teething, the other but little. One of them is a larger, stouter child than the other, but not perceptibly more intelligent. Their intellectual operations are as distinct as though no union existed; they amuse themselves together as do other children. They are still too young to determine what will be for them the easiest mode of progression. They can stand and walk a few steps either laterally or forward for one of them, while the other follows by a backward movement. The side step is that which most probably they will ultimately adopt.”—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, July, 1854.

I have just received a letter from my friend, Prof. Charles A. Lee, dated May 9, 1866, enclosing a photograph of the “Carolina Twins,” and a show-bill for their exhibition in Washington, D. C., May 7, 1866,

announcing "A most wonderful and indescribable curiosity, universally admitted by the great medical profession of Baltimore to be the greatest wonder ever heard of in medical experience or books." The programme contains a list of popular songs which the "twins" were to sing; also, "experimenting with the twins by a committee selected from the audience, skipping the rope," etc. The bill states that they "are quite comely, intelligent and well educated; they sing finely, dance remarkably well, and are very pleasing to the eye; with them it is literally 'two souls with but a single body.'"

Prof. Lee says: "I have just come from visiting a monstrosity which will interest you much. It is that of two negroes united from the lumbar vertebræ down to the end of the sacrum. There are two heads, two bodies, four arms, four legs, one anus, one vagina, one desire to urinate and one to defacate (simultaneous.) Two hearts, *one on the left side of the one, and one on the right side of the other girl.* Their names are Millie and Christina. Born of slave parents in 1852, in Columbus county, North Carolina, they weighed 17 pounds. Pain or sensation below the union is felt by both; one can locate its seat, the other cannot, but

feels it; could tell, for example, how many times I pinched her sister. They are very active and intelligent, sing well, read, dance, and run; never quarrel or disagree; have splendid Caucasian heads. They have menstruated seven months. They have never been sick but once; then had fever and ague, taken at the same time. Mother weighs 240 lbs., father 160; mother full-blooded African, has had 17 children; father, a mulatto.

“One of the sisters may have headache, the other not; one may sleep while the other is awake, etc. They experience hunger and thirst, however, at the same time; appetite good. Height of one four feet five and a half inches; of the other, four feet six inches. They are united back to back; they have both become accustomed to face the same way, so that the outer legs, (one right, the other left,) are larger, better developed and stronger than the inner. The feet, of course, are placed quite obliquely when they walk. The larger one can walk and carry the other. They walk well on the outer legs.”

The editor of the *Daily Evening Bulletin*, of Philadelphia, May 18, 1866, says: “The nerves of sensation which center in the spinal column affect both

girls in precisely the same degree, while there is independent action above the point of contact. To explain our meaning better, we would say, that if a visitor were to touch Millie upon the toe, Christina would immediately turn her head in response to the touch; while pinches upon the arm, or a touch upon any part of the body above the point of contact, would only be felt by the person touched."

This would imply an inosculation of the spinal nerves which compose the great sciatic trunks.

The editor also adds: "They chat with each other almost incessantly when not otherwise occupied, and the two talk with different persons upon different subjects at the same moment.

"They seem perfectly cheerful in their strangely blended condition; declare that they know of no inconvenience resulting from it, and protest that they would be unhappy if they were separated, were such a thing possible."

This case is strikingly analagous to that of the Hungarian sisters; the cases differ principally in the Carolina Twins having common sensibility below the point of junction of the two bodies.

Postscript.—Since the above has been in type, and the proof was received for revision, I have had an opportunity to make a personal examination of the “Carolina Twins.” On Wednesday, July 18, 1866, I visited *Barnum’s Museum*, in New York city, for the purpose of seeing the African Sisters—this living symmetrical Pygopagus. The statement of Profs. Miller, Ramsbotham and Lee, which are given above, were nearly all confirmed. The “Twins” are now in their fifteenth year; they are in excellent health; their combined weight is one hundred and fifty-nine and a half pounds. They are well formed; they resemble each other very much; their complexion is that of the fair mulatto; their features and expression are rather pleasing; they are very cheerful and intelligent; fond of reading; sing very sweetly, and converse modestly and fluently. They dance a schottische gracefully, and run with remarkable celerity. In running or walking they advance the inner limbs together, (being the right of one and the left of the other,) and they bring forward the outer limbs which touch the floor simultaneously. They can walk quite readily with their outer limbs alone, by holding up the inner ones; in which case the right and left outer limbs are moved alternately,

as in a single individual. The union extends from the top of the sacrum across from one ilium to the other, with a slight degree of obliquity, which is more considerable in the body above the junction, the result of long-continued position while lying in bed, and of voluntary effort with a view to convenience while standing or sitting. The inner limbs are a little shorter than the outer ones; the result is that in standing the outer feet rest firmly on the floor, while the inner ones merely rest upon the front parts, the heels being elevated. Standing as above described, Christina is the left hand twin, she is somewhat larger and stronger than Millie. Christina lifts Millie when she stoops, and walks or runs with her with great ease; no pain or strain is experienced at the seat of the junction. Millie being weaker, cannot perform the same feat with her sister. The woman who has the care of them informed me that they experience the desire to defecate, or to urinate simultaneously; only one anus and rectum exists. I was assured that the urine is voided in a single stream. The day that I examined the twins was very hot, the mercury was above 90° of Fahrenheit's scale. I counted the pulse of each, while they were standing, and found Christina's to be 68 per

minute, and Millie's to be 80. The apex of Christina's heart is on her left side, while that of Millie is distinctly felt in her right side. I fully satisfied myself that sensibility is common to both at all points below the seat of fusion, which is due, no doubt, to coalition of the spinal cords, or of inosculation of their terminal branches. They present every indication of attaining advanced life. They are the same case that was exhibited in London, and described by Prof. Ramsbotham.

Thomas Miller

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